

In – Fur – Nation

Your Guide to the World of Furry Fandom

Volume 14, Number 3

Our Motto: *All The News We Get, We Print!*

Fall/Winter 2003



Kenai and Koda c. 2003, Walt Disney Productions

"I can't believe you totaled a mammoth, eh? [Rutt the moose, to his brother Tuke, in Disney's *Brother Bear*]

Back again, heading out of 2003 with more Furry news for you all...

As of this writing, it seems that Disney's *Brother Bear* is holding up well against the onslaught that is *The Matrix Revolutions*. Despite generally (and inexplicably) bad to indifferent reviews, it seems enough folks actually went to SEE *Brother Bear* (more than once) to give it second weekend box office nearly as good as the first. For those who can visit Southern California, Disney's California Adventure in Anaheim has a special *Brother Bear* display area and show. The DVD is schedule for release in March. In front of *Brother Bear* at the theaters are several trailers for other furry projects, including...

Disney's hit TV series *Teacher's Pet* comes to theaters this coming February 6th, from Walt Disney TV Animation. For those not familiar with the series from ABC Saturday mornings or Toon Disney, it goes like this: Spot (voiced by Nathan Lane) is a family dog who desperately wants to be a human boy – to the point that he regularly dressed up like a boy and heads to school. His fellow pets (Jerry Stiller and David Ogden-Stiers)

think he's more than a bit nuts. In the feature film version (which, like the TV show, features wildly stylized animation), Spot is drawn toward a mad scientist (Kelsey Grammer) who claims to turn dogs into humans – for a price.



Characters c. 2003, Walt Disney Productions

Also in front of *Brother Bear* is an ad for *Home on the Range*, Disney Feature Animation's next 2D project. "On April 2, Bust A Moo," say the ads. The story is a classic western movie set-up. A nice old dame has a farm that's about to fall to foreclosure. Only this time, the farm animals themselves decide to raise the necessary cash to save the farm, heading off as bounty hunters to catch a famous desperado. Quite a voice cast is involved: Roseanne Barr, Dame Judi Dench, Jennifer Tilly, Cuba Gooding Jr., Randy Quaid, Sarah Jessica Parker, and Steve Buscemi. The score was written by Alan Menken (*Beauty and the Beast*), and it features songs performed by K.D. Lang, Bonnie Raitt, and Tim McGraw.

You've-heard-it-by-now Department: Not only did Disney/Pixar's *Finding Nemo* become the #1 animated film of all time at the box office, and the highest-earning film of 2003 (far and away), but now it's setting world records for DVD sales. And that was *before* the Christmas sales season!

Next summer, June 18th to be precise, lock up your lasagna: *Garfield the Movie* hits the big screens! Find out more (and view the teaser trailer) at www.garfieldmovie.com.



Image c. 2003, Dreamworks Pictures

Two furry films are in production at Dreamworks, with plans to release them in 2005. *Madagascar* follows the adventures of a group of African animals (a lion, a giraffe, a zebra, and a hippo) who were born and raised in the Central Park Zoo. While being shipped back to Africa, their boat sinks, stranding them on the shores of Madagascar – where they discover they have absolutely no idea how to survive in the wild. And yes, this is a comedy! Voices include **Ben Stiller**, **Chris Rock**, **Jada Pinkett-Smith**, and **David Schwimmer**. Look for the CGI film in May, 2005.



Image c. 2003, Dreamworks Pictures

Also in production at Dreamworks, *Over the Hedge* is a new CGI film based on the well-known comic strip created by **Michael Fry** and **T. Lewis**. Like the strip, the film follows the adventures of a smart-mouthed con-artist raccoon named R.J. (voiced by **Jim Carrey**) and a sensitive, naive turtle named Verne (voiced by **Gary Shandling**). The film is currently scheduled for release in November of 2005.

From www.comingsoon.net:

Fox Animation and Blue Sky Studios [*Ice Age*] are finalizing a deal to bring the children's book *The Iguana Brothers: A Tale of Two Lizards* to the big screen as an animated feature with **John Leguizamo** voicing and producing. [Leguizamo voiced the sloth in *Ice Age* – ye ed-otter] Academy Award nominee **Jeremy Pisker** (*Bulworth*). The book by **Tony Johnston** and illustrated by **Mark Teague** includes three brief tales about iguana brothers Tom and Dom who give up their regular diet of bugs to become flower eaters, explore their physical similarity to dinosaurs, and affirm their friendship.

Disney Animation has signed a multi-picture deal with *Shrek* producer **John Williams** and his Vanguard Animation to develop a series of moderately budgeted CGI films. First up is *Valiant*, a comedy about a World War II carrier pigeon. Look for it in 2005.

Recently discovered anime from Bandai Entertainment: *Junkers Come Here*. In this newly released feature film (available on DVD), a lonely young girl named Hiromi Nozawa discovers that her pet schnauzer, Junkers, has the power to speak human languages and to work magic – But he only wishes to speak to her! You can find out more at www.junkerscomehere.com.

Six episodes from the first season of *Transformers: Beast Wars* (created by Mainframe Entertainment) are now available on DVD from Rhino Home Video. And speaking of Mainframe, they'll soon be releasing a direct-to-video full-color CGI version of **Jill Thompson's** comic book series *Scary Godmother*.

More discovered anime: Two volumes (five episodes each) of the popular series *Twelve Kingdoms* are now available on DVD from Media Blasters. The story follows a trio of Japanese high-school kids who find themselves transported to a magical land, populated by powerful beings and talking animals.

More classic animation, available for Christmas: In *Santa Claus and the Three Bears*, two young bear cubs are afraid of missing Santa if they hibernate through Christmas. This 1970 half-hour special is available on DVD, along with more than two hours of Christmas-themed animation, commercials, and music videos.

The Looney Tunes are back in action! Well, sort of. 56 classic Looney Tunes cartoons are now available in a 4-DVD set, *The Looney Tunes Golden Collection*. More recent cartoons are collected in *The Looney Tunes Premiere Collection*, and brand new cartoons with Bugs and his pals are found on the new DVDs *Looney Tunes – Reality Check* and *Looney Tunes – Stranger Than Fiction*.

If it's your cup of tea, the first collection of *Space Ghost Coast-to-Coast* episodes is now available on DVD. [Editorial comment: Go Zorak! – ROR]

For fans of classic funny animals and animation, four hours of *Krazy Kat* shorts will soon be released in a double DVD set as the *Krazy Kat Cartoon Collection*.

Coming soon on DVD from Warner Brothers is *The Little Polar Bear*, a new animated feature based on the popular illustrated books by **Hans de Beer**. A

young polar bear, separated from his parents, goes on an adventure and learns real lessons in accepting people's differences.

Coming this February on DVD is the *Planet of the Apes* 35th Anniversary Widescreen Edition. Featuring not only the original film starring **Charlton Heston** and **Roddy McDowell**, but also running commentary from various stars in front of and behind the camera, as well as the documentary of the entire series, *Behind the Planet of the Apes*, hosted by **McDowell**.

On the shelves now from Aardappel Comics is the first full-color issue of *SWAB Team* by **Wim Tilkin** and **Kristiaan Erlingen**. Griff, Vane, and Wart are three strange furry and feathery creatures who battle against hunting and animal abuse wherever they find it. Find out more at www.swabteam.com. Also from Aardappel, this February look for the premiere of *Mango & Spit*, **Wim Tilkin's** black & white comic about a pair of aliens who travel between desolated worlds, seeking the root of all evil. You can check out www.aardappelcomics.com for new of other upcoming projects.

From About Comics comes the first issue of *Licensable Bear* by **Nat Gertler**, **Tone Rodriguez**, et al. This black & white comic follows the adventures of a cute little bear who's only wish is to license himself for t-shirts, plush toys, and other consumer goods. "Today I'm Hip, tomorrow I'll be Retro-Hip!" You heard him.

New from Airwave Comics is *Yets*, a black & white comic by **Mike Bocianowski**. When the daredevil guinea pig Sir Perry and his cuddle-mutt travel the omniverse in search of wild dragons, they encounter instead the fire-breathing little critters known as "yets".

Grumpy Old Monsters is a new full-color humor comic from IDW Publishing. "When Castle Frankenstein is threatened, the world's classic monsters [including the Wolf Man] have to escape from the Old Monsters' Home for one last adventure!" [Previews] The story is by award-winning novelists **Kevin J. Anderson** and **Rebecca Moesta**, with art by **Paco Caverio** and **Guillermo Mendoza**.

This December, a comic book icon comes to an end. *Bone* by **Jeff Smith** will end with issue #55, bringing to a close one of the most beloved and well-known black & white titles in existence. In commemoration, Cartoon Books will release a *Complete Bone Adventures Poster*, which features the covers of all

55 issues in order.

Interesting things seem to keep coming out of the *Thundercats* camp. The newest series is *Thundercats: Hammerhand's Revenge*, in which the Thundercats form an alliance with a race of gryphons to help defeat a berzerker and his pirates. Also, this January look for the *Thundercats: The Return* to be released as a trade paperback. Both from Wildstorm Press.

Aneurin Wright's *Lex Talionis: A Jungle Tale*, previously released as a mini-comic, is coming this January in a full-sized comic from Image. "A tale of metaphysical justice" [Previews], it tells the story of a group of hunters chasing a troupe of gorillas.

A new full-color 12-page mini-comic from Top Cow Productions, *Knights of the Jaguar* tells the story of a cadre of were-cats in the Aztec empire, fighting against the demon Azar. Look for it in January. Speaking of Top Cow, in February they release (literally) the long-awaited premiere of **Mark Millar's** *The Unfunnies*. This black & white comic takes a subtly comic look at the darker parts of human existence – as experienced various funny animals from traditional cartoon strips. Yes.

Graphic artist **Jason** (creator of *Shhhh*) returns in January with a new wordless graphic story, *Tell Me Something*. This story of two young birds in love is coming from Fantagraphics.

The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles return to Mirage Studios this January, now in the new black & white series *Tales of the TMNT* by **Steve Murphy** and **Dario Brizuela**.

Hey, we're in the comics again! Shanda Fantasy Arts presents *Furry Fandom*, a one-shot black & white where the likes of **Steve Corbett**, **Mike Curtis**, and **Fred Patten** discuss the history of furry comics, conventions, and other fannish goodies. Also coming soon from SFA, look for the *Four Footed Furies One Shot*. Featuring stories and art (in black & white) by **Bernard Doove**, **Jace**, **Kacey Maltzman**, **Mark Merlino**, **Shelley Plegler**, and **Roy D. Pounds** giving us stories of taur-types and other furies who walk on four feet. And, early in 2004 look for the latest edition of *Women in Fur*, featuring some of the best fem writers and artists.

This coming February look for the premier issue of *Spirit & Image* by **Daniel Monahan** and **Tim Brazier**, a new full-color series from Bob House Comics. A young Mayan boy is informed by his mother that his

father was in fact the Great Jaguar Spirit who protects their people.

Now here's something new: A full-color comic book with a CD-ROM of animation included. *Shao Tzu* by **Fenton, Wang, and Tsai** is a one-shot comic about an ancient earth guardian, who takes the form of a pig, struggling with his duties. The animated short film on the CD-ROM sets up the story in the comic. It's published by Cho-Zen Books.

Coming soon from MU Press, look for the return of *Rhudiprt*, *Prince of Fur*, now written and drawn by **Teri S. Wood**. In the meantime, look for the first six black & white issues of *Rhudiprt*, as written by **Dwight R. Decker**, now collected in trade paperback as *The Rhudiprt Collection*.

Radio Comix presents the complete 8-issue black & white miniseries *Bureau of Mana Investigation* (by **Christina Hanson, Eric Garcia, and Baron Engel**) as a complete set for a special price. Early next year, look for the collected *Sex Kitten* first issue by **Kurt Wicken**. Believe it or not, it's an all-ages title! The story of the feline superhero lady with an unfortunate code name is collected (in black & white) from the pages of *Furlough*.

Herobear and the Kid return this February in *Saving Time*, a new 3-issue black & white mini-series by creator **Mike Kunkel**. Young Tyler and Herobear battle the killer toys of the evil mastermind Von Klon.

New manga to look out for, early next year: *Sgt. Frog*, Volume 1, a new black & white graphic novel by **Mine Yoshizaki**. Sgt. Keroro (a frog) comes to Earth on a mission to conquer it, but after losing all contact with his home world, he's forced to shack up with a Japanese family. It's published by Tokyo Pop.

James Kochalka presents *Peanut Butter and Jeremy's Best Book Ever* in trade paperback from Alternative comics. Follow the story of a smart-aleck crow and a rather crazed cat who become friends.

Speaking of *Scary Godmother* by **Jill Thompson** [see Upcoming Films, above], *The Scary Godmother Activity Book* is available now from Sirius Entertainment. Play "Where's Harry?" and find the werewolf hidden among all the clutter in his bedroom!

Issues #1 to #6 of *The Way of the Rat* by **Dixon, Johnson, Ryder, and Garcia** (published by CrossGen Comics) are now collected in a trade paperback, *Traveler Vol. 1 – The Walls of Zhumar*. If you don't recall, the story involves a thief in historical

China, who discovers he is destined to be a hero – helped out by, among others, a kick-butt talking monkey with attitude. And oh yes – They're in full color, too! While you're at it, make sure to look *The Way of the Rat* issue #22, which prominently features Po Po, the kung fu monkey!

Archie Comics presents two new *Sonic the Hedgehog* trade paperbacks: *Beginnings* reprints stories from the hard-to-find issues #0 to #3 of the comic book series, while *First* includes the origins of several *Sonic* characters. Brought to you in full color by **Michael Gallagher, Scott Shaw, and Dave Manak**.

Mutts creator **Patrick McDonnell** is celebrated in a new hardcover book, *Mutts: The Art of Patrick McDonnell*, published by Harry N. Abrams. The book not only features numerous *Mutts* strips, but sketches, paintings, and wood carvings as well.

All ten issues of **Rod Espinosa's** celebrated full-color furry and fantasy comic *Neotopia* will be collected in the *Neotopia Masterpiece Edition*, coming in hardcover from AP Comics this February.

The well-known European film-noir style furry comic *Blacksad* (by **Juan Diaz Canales and Juanjo Guardino**) finally comes to North American shores in an english-language trade paperback edition this February. John Blacksad is a cat private eye, in love with the kittenish Natalia Wilford, but more in love with danger! In a more science fiction vein, *The Quest for Aberzen: To the Death* (by **Marc N'Guessan and Christophe Gibelin**) presents the story of three furry characters – intrepid, curious, and idiotic – who join forces to defeat the dark powers at the center of an alien world. Both full-color titles are from IBooks.

The Immortals is a new collection of four fantasy novels by **Tamora Pierce**, telling the story of young Daine: Orphaned peasant girl, who finds herself in extraordinary circumstances when she discovers her magical, mental connection with animals. Now she must use her powers to help her human and animal companions rid their world of an evil, immortal magic. Available as a boxed set of four paperbacks, or in a special hardcover edition, both from Random House.

Early in 2004, Titan Publishing presents *Wallace and Gromit: The Whippet Vanishes*, the latest hardcover collection of full-color Wallace and Gromit comic strips. Also keep an eye out for *Feng Shuen*, a new full-color hardcover book in which Wallace and

Gromit's friend, Shaun the Sheep, gives you guidance for living a peaceful life. Really.

Parables is a new anthology by artist and animator **Michel Gagne**, collecting his first four stories in one volume: *The Bird*, *the Spider*, *and the Octopus*; *The Great Shadow Migration*; *The Mystery of He*; and *A Search for Meaning: The Story of Rex*. More info at www.gagneint.com.

A big rush of furry-oriented video games were marched out this fall. *Whiplash* (from Crystal Dynamics and Eidos Entertainment) for the Playstation 2 and the X-Box has got to be one of the most unique ideas to come along in years. Here we go: A pair of animals named Spanx and Redmond escape from an experimental lab. Bound together by a length of chain at the ankles, one of our heroes regularly does a whip-crack and uses the other guy as a weapon! Meanwhile in another realm entirely, our British friends team up in *Wallace and Gromit in Project Zoo* (from bam! Entertainment), out once again to stop the villainous penguin Feathers McGraw (previously seen in *The Wrong Trousers*).

Two new game sequels to look for (both published by SCEA, for the Playstation 2) include *Ratchet and Clank: Going Commando*, in which our intrepid (and well-equipped!) furry friends battle evil across several planets, and *Jak II*, featuring the further adventures of the unspeaking Jak and his furry friend Daxter. And, of course, there are tie-in video games aplenty, for *Brother Bear* and *Looney-Toons – Back in Action* and *The Cat in the Hat*, available for about every platform there is. Plus Disney's *Toontown* Internet Game, where you and your friends on-line play young toons out to save the world from evil robots.

Obituaries: He touched enough of our hearts for his passing to be noted in *People* magazine of all places. **Keiko**, the orca who starred in *Free Willy* and whose release from captivity and subsequent rehabilitation for life in the wild became international causes, has died of pneumonia in the seas off the coast of Norway. He was 27 years old.

<From Zippo, on the HML:>

Writer/producer Eric Garcia has announced on his official website, www.ericgarcia.com, that he has finally been given the go-ahead for a pilot movie for Anonymous Rex for the Sci-Fi channel. It's been in development for several years while the effects techniques for showing dinosaurs disguised as humans [got worked out]. The pilot is actually based on the prequel novel, *Casual Rex*. It will feature

Vincent Rubio and his partner, Ernie, who are dinosaur detectives disguised as humans, as they investigate a "back-to-nature" dinosaur cult.

"Come on, that mountain came outta nowhere!" [Tuke, in Disney's *Brother Bear*]

Furry Stuff still has ConFurence Stuff! The original ConFurence General Store (for ConFurCones 0 – 10) has moved to the new Furry Stuff web portal.

Check them out at www.furystuff.com to find out more – very soon, pictures of what's available will be up on-line. Three of the popular ConFurence T-Shirt designs are still available for a limited time: "Furries in Force" (black on honey-color) by **Eric Schwartz** from CF7, "Furries in Love" (black and pink on grey) by **Rachael Cawley** from CF9, and "Sydney's World" (Sydney on a colored globe on green) by **Ken Sample** from CF10. Plus, a very few of **Mitch Beiro's** colorful "Furries in Space" T-shirts remain (write for sizes available). They also still offer the *ConFurence Seven Highlights Video*, as well as the *ConFurence Eight – Music and Mirth* and *ConFurence Nine – Furries in Love* highlights videos too! And coming soon, a special combination video from CF5 and CF6! Not to mention many cool prints and extra Souvenir Books from past ConFurCones! To find a complete list, visit the Furry Stuff web site, or write them at: Furry Stuff, P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92842-1958.

Looking for NEW ConFurence Stuff? Well, the home page for **The ConFurence Group**, home of ConFurence 2003 (www.confurence.net) is down right now, while head fur **Darrel Exline** takes stock and counts the inventory for The ConFurence Store. When he's done, you'll have plenty of opportunity to buy classic t-shirts, videos, and other goodies from the ConFurCones of the 21st Century. Keep your eyes on the web site for more details.

A Note to the staff members of our many Furry Conventions: Hey! We wanna help you get the word out! Having a cool-looking web site is a neat thing, but remember: There are still a significant number of fans out there (furry and otherwise) who don't use the World Wide Web, or who don't use it to it's full potential. For them, there's this cool old thing folks on the Internet call *Snail Mail*. That's where we come in! Send us information, and let us help you get the word out to over 1,000 furry fans, artists, dealers, and publishers in the U.S., Canada, Europe, Japan... Look below for our reasonable ad rates, and don't forget... send us text blurbs and you get in for free!

A Request to Our Readers: Hey, got a favorite

comic or book store that carries your favorite furry titles, or that you wish would carry more? Give us their address! We'll send them a copy of In-Fur-Nation each quarter, and keep them abreast of the kind of comics and media that you would like to see on their shelves! Remember, they can't order it if they don't know it's out there! As an alternate: Know of any good comic zines or web sites that might be looking to trade issues?

Guess what? In-Fur-Nation is looking for Field Reporters! As an on-going feature, we're going to present profiles of furry creators and furry-oriented companies that are helping to promote products and media of interest to funny animal fans all over. So, like to help out? Know a comic book creator, animator, publisher, or other such person in the field who'd like to discuss what furies mean to them, or to the world? Talk to them, write down what they say... then give us a write-up, about 300-500 words, and we'll include it as a blurb in an upcoming INF, and give you credit for it. [We do maintain the right to edit for clarity and length, mind you.] And hey, we're looking for **furry convention reviews and anecdotes** too! Send hard copies to the Furry Stuff address above, or, you can e-mail your submission to **Rod O'Riley** at mink@firstlight.net.

And Now, just what you've been wanting to hear:

How do I keep up my **Subscription** to *In-Fur-Nation*? We're glad you asked! After nearly a decade of functioning as a newsletter for ConFurence, and a furry newsletter second, *In-Fur-Nation* is expanding its role in the furry community by presenting you the whole length and breadth of furry:

Not just comic books, animated films, picture books, and the rest, but the growing number of furry-themed fan conventions popping up around the continent, and around the world! So now, a subscription to *In-Fur-Nation* will bring you even *more* of what furry fans are looking for around the globe. Find out what to look for, and where to go! Brought right to your doorstep three times a year (spring, summer, and fall). And what it's gonna cost you? A whopping **\$5.00** for a year's subscription. That's right, for a year. Just send a check made out to "Furry Stuff" (and note it's for *In-Fur-Nation*), or heck, just send a \$5.00 bill in a darkened envelope. (Trust us, it's an old tradition in the "zine community. It works). To subscribe, to find out more info, or to send us notes for our Furry News, write us at: In-Fur-Nation, P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92642-1958.

Advertising in In-Fur-Nation: For those who've been asking, ads in In-Fur-Nation come in these

sizes: 1/8-page "business card" size for \$5.00 per issue, and 1/4-page size (4 1/2" tall by 3 1/4" wide) for \$10.00 per issue. Full-page inclusions can also be arranged for \$50.00 an issue. Check should be made out to Furry Stuff. Send camera-ready art and text to P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92642-1958, or send email to mink@firstlight.net.

(Many thanks to Fred Patten, Mark Merlino, Robert Johnson, *Previews* magalog, and all the people who helped provide information for this issue both by mail and via Internet! Great help was also provided by the web masters of the various furry conventions out there. [Rod O'Riley, ye ed-otter]

And now...

More Furry Conventions All Around!

Here's a quick look at some furry gatherings popping up around the country, and the world.

**FC 2004: January 22-26th
The Great Outdoors**



Further Confusion 2004

Celebrating furies in "The Great Outdoors", January 22-26, 2003, at The Doubletree Hotel, San Jose, California

We got all this stuff from the furs in charge! And here they go...

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR-CRITTER

It's hard to believe we're just a few short months away from Further Confusion 2004. It seems like just yesterday, we had our first staff meeting leading up to next year's convention, but when I look at everything the staff has gotten done over the past half year or so, I am amazed. I've seen the draft of the schedule of events, and he has nearly one hundred fifty events on the schedule! This is, without question, a record for us, as well as for any furry convention ever held. Heck, we're coming close to WorldCon levels of programming now! I also challenged the art show staff to come up with a way to provide post-show sales without sacrificing any of the safety we provide for the art in the show. They've come up with a plan to do just that, and it looks like the art show is going to be better than ever! We've broken our records every year so far, and don't see any reason this year would be any different. We're getting close, folks, and I really look forward to seeing you all in January. If you have any questions

or comments about the convention, please don't hesitate to contact us via the forums, or send email to info@furtherconfusion.org.

MEMBERSHIPS

If you haven't made your reservations for Further Confusion 2004 yet, time is running short. The deadline for mail-in reservations is December 31, just a few short weeks away! We'll take online reservations at www.furtherconfusion.org until January 10, but after that, you'll be stuck paying the full \$50 rate at the door.

If you'll only be at Further Confusion for a single day, you can purchase a one day pass at the door. No one-day passes will be sold in advance. The prices for single day passes are listed below:

Thursday Only : \$20

Friday Only : \$25

Saturday Only : \$35

Sunday Only : \$35

Monday Only : \$20

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

If you haven't made your hotel reservations yet, now is the time to do so! We still have plenty of rooms available, but rooms with two beds are going fast! Don't wait any longer to get your reservations, or you might just miss out! We've made hotel reservations especially easy this year, with online hotel reservations, also available at www.furtherconfusion.org. Don't wait, though; our special rate expires on January 8, and we can't promise how much you'll have to pay after that!

SCHEDULE POSTED

That's right! We have posted a first draft of the Further Confusion 2004 schedule on our website at www.furtherconfusion.org! Please take a look, and see all we have planned for you this year, but do remember, this schedule is a work in progress, and will certainly change between now and the convention. As we say in the staff meetings, the final, FINAL schedule will be posted sometime around one week after the end of the convention. We do expect the schedule to settle into something resembling its final state around the first week of January, though, so keep an eye opened.

GUESTS OF HONOR

Larry Niven is the Hugo and Nebula award winning author of many Science Fiction and Fantasy novels, and is probably best known for his Ringworld series, consisting of "Ringworld", "Ringworld-Engineers", "Ringworld-Throne", and the soon-to-be-released "Ringworld's Children", which is scheduled to hit the bookshelves just before Further Confusion 2004.

Heather Alexander is a celtic singer/songwriter, well known on the Renaissance Faire circuit. Her music is taken from both traditional music of the British Isles and original compositions, many of her own works being inspired by popular works of fantasy. The creatures of the woods play a major role in many of her works, such as *Wolfen One*, *Life's Flame*, *Twa Corbies*, and many more. Heather will be performing during the con, which should be an unforgettable experience for all.

Grant Freckelton is a Digital Artist who currently lives in Sydney, Australia and works as a Visual Effects Art Director. He has produced concept art, matte paintings and animation for numerous feature films, with credits including *Moulin Rouge*, *The Quiet American*, *Rabbit Proof Fence*, *Garage Days*, and most recently, *The Matrix Reloaded*.

ART SHOW

Panels in the art show are going fast, and we expect to sell out within the next few weeks! If you want to put art into our record-breaking art show, make sure to get your application in as soon as possible. Registration forms and other information are available at the Art Show section of the website or by sending electronic mail to artshow@furtherconfusion.org.

We are also making changes to our charity auction this year. Instead of holding a separate charity auction, we'll have a few select, high-value items to auction off during the break between the two sections of the art auction. We are also giving each of the artists in the art auction the option of contributing a fraction of their proceeds from the show to our charities this year: **The Exotic Feline Breeding Center**, and the **Bay Area Bears** (a chapter of **Good Bears of the World**).

PARTY FLOOR

We've had quite a few people contact us this year about rooms on the party floor, and we're hoping to have a lively collection of parties there this year! If you're planning a public room party and haven't contacted us yet, please drop a line to . We can't promise we'll be able to get you a room on the party floor now, but we'll do what we can. We're also planning to help advertise parties in the con newsletter and other places, so if you have a public party, it's definitely to your advantage to let us know about it.

FURSUIT BADGES

Remember those nifty FC Fursuit and Costume

Badges? Well, Further Confusion's continuing the tradition for 2004. For those unfamiliar with fursuit/costume badges: this badge is a collectable hard card badge for a fursuit, bearing only the costume name, costume picture, and badge number, allowing a costumer to go around the con in 'persona' and still have access to con function space. The badge is **ONLY** valid when worn with the fursuit/costume.

Pictures for these badges will be taken on Friday and Saturday of the con (1/23/04 and 1/24/04) by APPOINTMENT ONLY, and an appointment sheet will be available at Registration. The first fursuit badge per standard membership is free, and \$5 per badge thereafter. Reminder: Like a regular con badge, a fursuit badge is only valid for the year it was issued. Badges from previous years will not gain you admittance to any of this year's convention functions.

To find out more, write to the nice folks at Anthropomorphic Arts & Education (Further Confusion 2003), 105 Serra Way, PMB #236, Milpitas, CA 95035. Of course, you can e-mail them care of info@furtherconfusion.org, or, check out the web site at <http://www.furtherconfusion.org/>.

ANNOUNCING... The Ursa Major Awards for 2003!

The Annual Anthropomorphic Literature and Arts of the Year awards, more commonly known as The *Ursa Major Awards*, were presented for the first time during ConFurence 2002. Now an annual event, the Ursa Major Awards are presented at various Furry Fandom events each year. The Award Categories include:

1. Best Anthropomorphic Presentation, Feature.
2. Best Anthropomorphic Presentation, TV Series or Short Work.
3. Best Anthropomorphic Novel.
4. Best Anthropomorphic Short Story.
5. Best Anthropomorphic Other Literary Work (lyrics, poetry, comic strip collection books, etc).
6. Best Anthropomorphic Comic Book.
7. Best Anthropomorphic Comic Strip (Printed or Internet).
8. Best Anthropomorphic Fanzine.
9. Best Anthropomorphic Published Illustration.
10. Best Anthropomorphic Game.

Qualifications for Nomination: To qualify for consideration in the 2003 Ursa Major Awards, the anthropomorphic work must have been released

between January 1, 2003 and December 31, 2003, and contain non-human characters that have been given human traits and/or attributes. Movies such as "Air Bud" or "Lassie Come Home" are stories about talented pets, not anthropomorphic characters, and therefore would not qualify. The characters do not have to be animals, either. A movie like "Brave Little Toaster" would qualify, as it portrays household appliances on an anthropomorphic quest to find their way home. Foreign movies that are re-released in their original form must be nominated for consideration in the year of their original release. Films that are significantly modified for American Release, however, will be considered different works, and will qualify for consideration based on when the modified version is released. Subtitled versions or accurate voice-over dubbing is considered a significant modification. Check out the web site at www.ursamajorawards.org for updates, or write to:

The Ursa Major Awards, c/o Fred Patten
11863 Jefferson Boulevard, Unit #2
Culver City, CA 90230-6322

Nominations must be postmarked between January 22, 2004 (the first day of Further Confusion) and March 15, 2004. **NOTE:** There is no nomination form. Nominations are accepted freeform from anyone in the fandom, from anywhere in the world. Written nominations may be sent to the address above in any form you wish. Please indicate which category you are nominating for, and what your selection(s) for that category are. Whenever possible, be as complete with your nominations as you can (title, author, publication date, etc.)

After nominations have closed, The Awards Committee will assemble five nominees from each category and create the final ballot. Once the ballots are created, voting will be open to members of the participating Furry Fandom conventions (*if* and when those members let the conventions know it's okay to give the Ursa Major staff their addresses). Also, interested fans can write in directly to obtain a ballot.

Voting will officially begin on April 1, 2004, and close on April 30, 2004. Any ballots not received postmarked by that date will not be counted. After all the votes are in, the staff will add them up, and the awards (with brand new award plaques) will be presented at C-ACE in Ottawa, Canada next June. Keep your eyes on the web site for more updates!

Furry Weekend Atlanta (FWA)

Brand new on the Furry scene is Furry Weekend

Atlanta, taking place February 13-15, 2004 in beautiful Atlanta, Georgia, USA at the Holiday Inn Atlanta Airport-North.

The **Guest of Honor** of FWA is **Latin Vixen**, a furry artist and fur-suit maker who's currently enrolled in Full Sail, a higher education program for computer animation in Orlando, Florida.

The **Holiday Inn Atlanta Airport – North** is located at 1380 Virginia Avenue in Atlanta. The FWA crew have negotiated a room rate of **\$59.00** a night, but all hotel reservations must be made by January 15th, 2004. And make sure to mention "Furry Weekend Atlanta" to get your room in the right reservation block!

Memberships can be purchased by mail until January 31, 2004, and then at the door. The membership rates are: **\$15.00** for Supporting; **\$35.00** 3-Day Attending, Pre-Register, **\$40.00** at the door; **\$70.00** for Sponsoring, Pre-Register, **\$75.00** at the door; **\$110.00** for God-Level Sponsoring (Yes, that's what they call it), Pre-Register, **\$120.00** at the door.

Please Note: All attendees under the age of 18 must have a *signed and notarized* Parental Consent Form (available from the FWA web site), and all attendees under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a chaperone.

In addition to the Dealers' Den, the Art Show, Artists' Alley, the Dances, and various Auctions, FWA will also have several tracks of **Programming**, as well as nice quiet places to chat and play games.

For more information, snail-mail them at Furry Weekend Atlanta, 1361 Fairbanks St., Atlanta, GA 30310, or travel the web to www.furryweekend.com.

Megaplex 3

March 19-21, 2004, in Orlando, Florida.

This will be a fun filled weekend focusing on independent and amateur entertainment. With puppeteering, costuming, art, and Internet broadcasts, this is just the beginning! We are proud to present our **Guest Of Honor** for 2004, **Trace Beaulieu**! Trace Beaulieu is an established writer, director, puppeteer, and visual effects artist on both the big and small screens for his work on *Mystery Science Theater 3000* and *Freaks and Geeks*. Also, the highlight of last year is returning again this year! The spectacular acapella group **Toxic Audio** will be

performing for their second year at Megaplex.

Megaplex 3 will be held at The **Sheraton Studio City Hotel**, 5905 International Drive, Orlando, Florida 32819.

To make your room reservations, call (800) 327-1366. Remember to mention the reservation code "MEGAPLEX"! Room rates have been negotiated at **\$82.00** for 1 to 4 people per room. You may book rooms for between March 16 through March 24 at the convention rate.

Memberships to Megaplex 3 are available for the following rates (taxes included): **\$15.00** for Supporting Members, **\$25.00** for Full Attending Members, **\$50.00** for Sponsor Members, **\$100.00** for Super Sponsor Members, and **\$500.00** for Mega Sponsor Members. Memberships can be purchased on-line, but it requires that you read and sign the Convention Conduct Policy.

Visit them on-line at www.pmp.info, or write to them care of Plex Inc., 843 Cypress Parkway #317, Kissimmee, FL 34759

Texas Fur Con

If you can't make it to Florida that weekend, consider heading down to Austin, Texas for the very first **Texas Fur Con**, March 19-20, 2004 at the **Holiday Inn Express**. (No, that's not a typo. They're holding it on Friday and Saturday.)

Planned **Guests** include DJ **Chris Pardus** and artists like **Laughing Rabbit Graphics**, **Sera Keen**, and **Darque Dragon Studios** (among others).

The **Room Rate** at the Holiday Inn Express, Austin (at 2751 E. Highway 71) is **\$55.00** per night for those who phone in their reservation. Call (512) 385-1000.

Membership Registration for Texas Fur Con is **\$20.00** for Friday and Saturday, with single-day rates also available. You can register on-line, or send your information and your payment to Foxfyre Animations c/o Cassandra Green P.O. Box 192, Barker, TX 77413.

Check out their web site at www.texasfurrycon.org for all the updates.

CaliFur 0

Coming soon: A brand-new furry convention for

Southern California, brought to you by the folks at FENEC Adventures (Home of FENEC, the west-coast outdoor furry camping experience).

CaliFur 0 will be a "trial run" of the new convention, to be held Memorial Day weekend (May 28 – 30), 2004, at the beautiful Atrium Hotel in Irvine, California, across the street from John Wayne/Orange County Airport. The Atrium, some furs may recall, was the home of ConFurence 5, 6, and 7 back in the 90's. Rooms are available at the Atrium for **\$109.00** per night (up to four furies in a room). And guess what? Reserving two nights in a row gets your party one free attending membership to CaliFur. Call (949) 833-2770.

Memberships to CaliFur 0 (by mail) are **\$35.00** for the full con, until May 1, 2004. (Make checks out to "Furrystuff"). You can find out more about types of membership, special guests, and planned activities by visiting the web site at www.califur.com, or just write them at: FENEC Adventures, P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92842-1958.

Keep your eyes on this space in our next issue for more information about other furry events coming up this spring and summer. Happy New Year, you all! And stay furry! Rod O'Riley, your ed-otter.

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Details Inside This Issue! [See Page #6]

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